

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning AB 2645 without my signature.

This bill is unnecessary since local districts already have the power and responsibility to protect their students from sunstroke and heatstroke. Education Code section 35183.5 already explicitly requires school sites to allow the outdoor use of articles of sun-protective clothing, including hats, and allows school sites to set policies regarding the type of sun-protective clothing permitted. Current law also already requires school sites to allow the use of sunscreen without a physician's note or prescription. I trust that school districts will adopt and enforce local policies to protect their students under the provisions of current law.

Finally, this bill allows school districts to adopt a policy related to "what is considered outdoors" for purposes of this bill. Since nothing in the Education Code currently prohibits this, school districts already have the authority to adopt policies regarding what is considered "outdoors". Nonetheless, as a practical matter I doubt that many districts will need to adopt a clarifying policy on the difference between indoors and outdoors.

For this reason, I am unable to sign this bill.

Sincerely,

Arnold Schwarzenegger